

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
STEEL
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1850

ANSWERED ON:20.07.2004

VISAKHAPATNAM STEEL PLANT

Reddy Shri Magunta Sreenivasulu;Virendra Kumar Shri

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has any proposal for the expansion of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the amount earmarked for the expansion of the plant;
- (c) the proposed capacity of the plant after implementation of expansion plan;
- (d) whether it is a fact that the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant is concentrating more on exports and denying the material to the locals resulting in high prices to the consumers;
- (e) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the manner in which the proposed expansion programme is likely to help indigenous market and consumers?

Answer

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS & FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

- (a) Apart from the proposal for installation of the 4th Coke Oven Battery, no proposal has been received by the government for the expansion of the steel Plant.
- (b) The salient features of the IVth Coke Oven Battery project are as under.
 - (i) The proposed 4th Coke Oven Battery is to meet the shortfall in Blast Furnace (BF) Coke in view of the increased production of hot metal and the shortfall that will arise when the rebuilding programme of the three existing coke oven batteries is taken up.
 - (ii) The installation of 4th Coke Oven Battery is a technical necessity for sustaining plant operations at higher efficiency.
 - (iii) The 4th Coke Oven Battery will act as a replacement battery when the existing batteries are taken up for repair / rebuilding. After the rebuilding is completed this battery will function as an additional battery.
 - (iv) The 4th Coke Oven Battery will be 7 meters tall and will consist of 67 ovens and will be based on Russian technology. It will thus be similar to the existing three batteries.
 - (v) There is a provision in the plant lay-out hence the proposed new battery will be installed in the existing coke oven battery complex adjacent to coke oven battery No.3.
 - (vi) The 4th Coke Oven Battery is estimated to cost Rs.303.00 crores.
 - (vii) The entire cost will be borne by the company from its internal resources.
 - (viii) The estimated time for completion of the 4th Coke Oven Battery is 36 months.
 - (x) The project has been approved by the government.
- (c) The implementation of the 4th Coke Oven Battery is not designed to lead to any increase in the steel making capacity of the steel plant.

(d) No, sir.

(e) Not applicable in view of (d) above.

(f) Not applicable in view of (c) above.